

Appln No. 10/672,187
Amdt date August 20, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 20, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4, and 5-24 will remain pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Independent claims 1 and 3 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 5, 11, and 18. Claims 2 and 4 have been amended. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 2, 4, and 5-24 are respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended page 32, line 33 of the specification because it incorrectly refers to "storage device" with reference number "1524." Applicant has also amended FIG. 15 to depict "precision portion 1534" described on page 33, line 4 of the specification. The amendments do not add any new matter. Entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Independent claims 1 and 3 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 5, 11, and 18, which now better define the rounding method. Applicant submits that new independent claims 5, 11, and 18, and claims 2 and 4 which respectively depend on claims 5 and 11, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Juri et al. (EP 0469841) or Juri et al.

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(U.S. Patent No. 5,329,475). Because independent claims 1 and 3 have been canceled in favor of new independent claims 5, 11, and 18, Applicant addresses the rejection with reference to the new independent claims.

With respect to claim 5, it recites:

"A method for rounding a first two's complement fixed point datum X represented by a sign bit s_i , n first integer bits, and a first fractional bits, where X includes a precision portion including at least the n first integer bits and b first fractional bits, and a loss portion including $(a-b)$ first fractional bits, the method comprising:

comparing at least a portion of the a first fractional bits with a preselected threshold value;

if the comparison returns a first result, adding the sign bit s_i to the least significant bit of the precision portion of X ;

if the comparison returns a second result, adding the most significant bit of the loss portion of X to the least significant bit of the precision portion of X ; and

returning \hat{X} based on the addition calculation, wherein \hat{X} includes at least n second integer bits and b second fractional bits." (Emphasis added).

Juri fails to teach or even suggest the recited limitations. Juri, while it discloses a data roundoff device in FIGS. 7, 8A, and 8B, it fails to teach or suggest a data roundoff device that adds "the sign bit s_i to the least significant bit of the precision portion of X " upon the returning of a first comparison result, and that adds "the most significant bit of the loss portion of X to the least significant bit of the precision

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portion of X" upon the returning of a second comparison result.
Accordingly, claim 5 is now in condition for allowance.

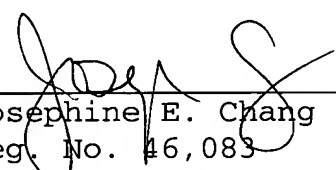
Claims 11 and 18 are also in condition for allowance because they include limitations that are similar to the limitations in claim 5, which make claim 5 allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 6-10, 12-17, and 19-24 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of the now pending claims 2, 4, and 5-24.

Respectfully submitted,
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APPENDIX

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